1 February 2001

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Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children
Second substantive session
29 January-2 February 2001
Agenda item 6
Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second substantive session

Draft report

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 54/93 of 7 December 1999, the General Assembly decided to convene in 2001 a special session for the follow-up to the World Summit for Children. It also decided to establish an open-ended preparatory committee to prepare for the outcome of the special session. The General Assembly further requested the preparatory committee to convene one organizational session on 7 and 8 February 2000 and one substantive session from 30 May to 2 June 2000, and to propose to the Assembly its requirements for further meetings in 2001.

2. In paragraph 15 of its resolution 55/26 of 20 November 2000, the General Assembly decided to convene the special session on children from 19 to 21 September 2001. In paragraph 16 of the same resolution, the Assembly decided to convene two further substantive sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children in New York during 2001, one from 29 January to 2 February and the other from 11 to 15 June.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and the duration of the session

3. The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children held its second substantive session at United Nations Headquarters from 29 January to 2 February 2001. The Committee held 10 meetings (1st to 10th), including meetings of two panel discussions and briefings on child-related conferences and events.

4. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) acted as the substantive secretariat, while the Disarmament and Decolonization Organs Servicing Branch of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat served as technical secretariat of the Committee.

5. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee, Patricia Durrant (Jamaica), who made an opening statement. The President of the General Assembly, Harri Holkeri (Finland), made an introductory statement.

6. The Executive Director of UNICEF, Carol Bellamy, also made a statement.

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B. Officers

7. The composition of the Bureau of the Committee remained the same as for its organizational and first substantive sessions:

Chairman:
Patricia Durrant (Jamaica)

Vice-Chairmen:
Madina Ly Tall (Mali)
Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
Lidija Topic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Hanns Schumacher (Germany)

C. Adoption of the agenda

8. At its 1st meeting, on 29 January, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.256/7), as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Organizational arrangements for the preparatory process and the special session.
5. Consideration of the outcome of the special session.
6. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second substantive session.
7. Other matters.

D. Documentation

9. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on its first session (A/55/43 (Part II));

(b) Provisional agenda and annotations (A/AC.256/7 and Add.1);

(c) Note by the Chairperson of the Committee on the participation of children and adolescents in the special session (A/AC.256/8);

(d) Note by the Chairperson of the Committee on the draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session (A/AC.256/9 and Add.1 and Corr.1);

(e) Information note by the Secretariat on the establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in the plenary of the special session (A/AC.256/10);

(f) Letter dated 22 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/AC.256/11);

(g) Letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/AC.256/12);

(h) Draft provisional outcome document, entitled "A world fit for children", submitted by the Bureau of the Committee (A/AC.256/CRP.6);

(i) Provisional programme of work (A/AC.256/CRP.7);

(j) Contributions from United Nations organizations and bodies on their follow-up to the World Summit for Children (A/AC.256/CRP.8);

(k) Draft decision submitted by the Bureau of the Committee, entitled "Arrangements for the participation of entities of the United Nations system in the special session of the General Assembly on children" (A/AC.256/L.9 and Rev.1);

(l) Draft decision submitted by the Bureau of the Committee, entitled "Arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session of the General Assembly on children" (A/AC.256/L.10 and Rev.1);

(m) Draft decisions submitted by the Bureau of the Committee, entitled "Provisional agenda for the special session" and "Organizational arrangements for the special session" (A/AC.256/L.11 and Rev.1).

III. Organizational arrangements for the preparatory process and the special session

10. The Committee considered item 4 at its 1st to 5th meetings, on 29, 30 and 31 January. At the 1st meeting, on 29 January, the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Kul Gautam, made a presentation to the Committee on the update on reviews and appraisals of

preliminary results of the implementation of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the Declaration in the 1990s.

11. Representatives of a number of Member States, United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as non-governmental organizations, made statements. Proposals on the question of the participation of entities of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, as well as the provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session, were put forward by the Bureau.

12. In accordance with its programme of work (A/AC.256/CRP.7), the Committee held two panel discussions and heard briefings on the United Nations, international and regional conferences, and events related to children. The summaries of the panel discussions by the respective Chairpersons are contained in the annex.

A. Participation of entities of the United Nations system in the special session

13. At its ___ meeting, on 2 February, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session the adoption of a draft decision entitled "Arrangements for the participation of entities of the United Nations system in the special session of the General Assembly on children" (A/AC.256/L.9/Rev.1) (see chap. VI, sect. A, draft decision I).

B. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session

14. At its __ meeting, on 2 February, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session the adoption of a draft decision entitled "Arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session of the General Assembly on children" (A/AC.256/L.10/Rev.1) (see chap. VI, sect. A, draft decision II).

C. Provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session

15. At its __ meeting, on 2 February, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session the adoption of draft decisions entitled "Provisional agenda of the special session" and "Organizational matters for the special session" (A/AC.256/L.11/Rev.1, draft decisions I and II) (see chap. VI, sect. B, draft decisions I and II).

IV. Consideration of the outcome of the special session

16. The Committee considered agenda item 5 at its 5th to 8th meetings, on 31 January and 1 February. Many Member States and United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as non-governmental organizations, made statements, comments and suggestions on the draft provisional outcome document (A/AC.256/CRP.6).

17. At its ___ meeting, on 2 February, the Committee agreed to authorize its Bureau, with the support of the substantive secretariat, to prepare a revised version of the draft outcome document, taking into account the views expressed during its second substantive session, for consideration at the third substantive session.

V. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second substantive session

18. At its ___ meeting, on 2 February, the Committee took note of the summaries by the Chairpersons of the two panels convened at its second substantive session (see annex).

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report on its second substantive session (A/AC.256/L.12).

VI. Recommendations of the Committee

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth regalar session

20. The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children recommends to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Arrangements for the participation of entities of the United Nations system in the special session of the General Assembly on Children

[For the text of the draft decision, see A/AC.256/L.9/Rev.1]

Draft decision II
Arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session of the General Assembly on Children

[For the text of the draft decision, see A/AC.256/L.10/Rev.1]

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session

21. The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children recommends to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Provisional agenda of the special session

[For the text of the draft decision, see A/AC.256/L.11/Rev.1, draft decision I]

Draft decision II
Organizational arrangements for the special session

[For the text of the draft decision, see A/AC.256/L.11/Rev.1, draft decision II]

Annex

Summaries by the Chairpersons of the two panels

Panel discussion I
Adolescent development and participation

[To be completed]

Panel discussion II
The girl child

[To be completed]